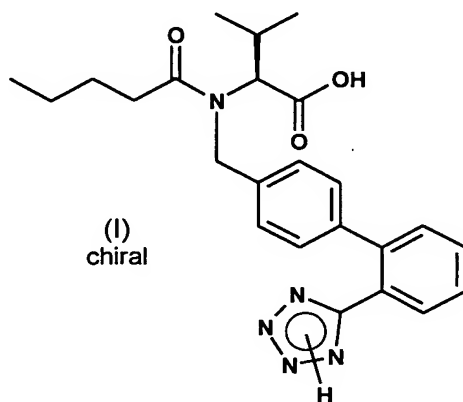


Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

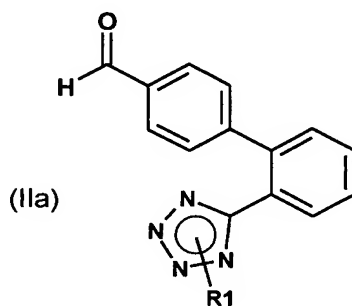
Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A process for the manufacture of the compound of formula (I)

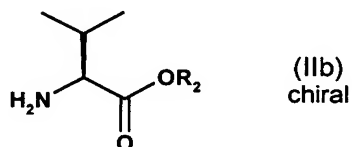


or a salt thereof, comprising

(a) reacting a compound of formula (II a)

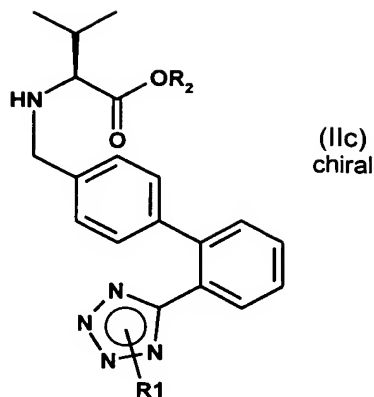


or a salt thereof, wherein R₁ is hydrogen or a tetrazole protecting group, with a compound of formula

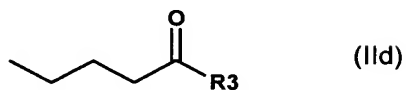


or a salt thereof, wherein R₂ represents hydrogen or a carboxy protecting group, under the conditions of a reductive amination; and

(b) acylating a resulting compound of formula (II c)

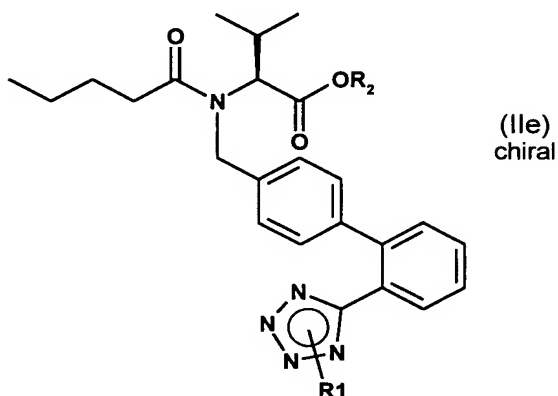


or a salt thereof with a compound of formula (II d)



wherein R_3 is an activating group; and,

(c) if R_1 and/or R_2 are different from hydrogen, removing the protecting group(s) in a resulting compound of formula (II e)



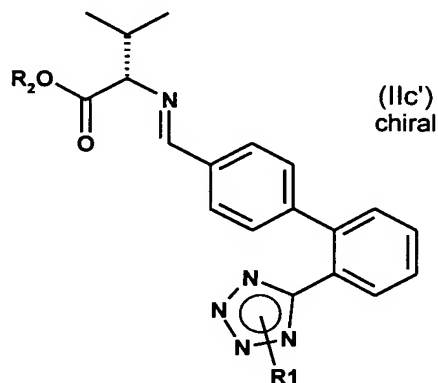
or a salt thereof; and

(d) isolating a resulting compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof; and, if desired, converting a resulting free acid of formula (I) into a salt thereof or converting a resulting salt of a compound of formula (I) into the free acid of formula (I) or converting a resulting salt of a compound of formula (I) into a different salt.

Claim 2 (original): The process according to claim 1, wherein in compounds of formulae (II a), (II b), (II c), and (II e) R_1 represents hydrogen and R_2 represents hydrogen and wherein in compounds of formula (II d) R_3 represents halogen.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The process according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein the reductive amination is carried out in the presence of a reducing agent such as a borohydride, which may also be in complexed form, or hydrogen or a hydrogen donor both in the presence of a hydrogenation catalyst.

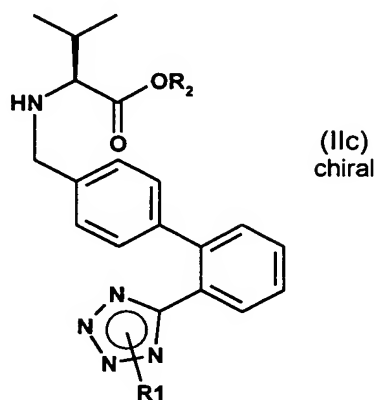
Claim 4 (currently amended): The process according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein step (a) is carried out by first forming an imine of formula



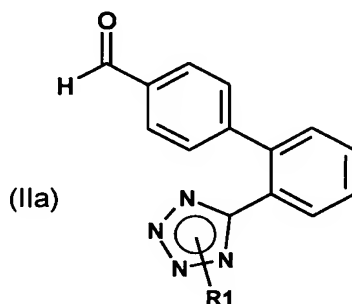
by condensing compounds of formulae (II a) and (II b) and by removing water and then followed by reducing a compound of formula (IIc') in the presence of a reducing agent.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The process according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein step (b) is carried out by first adding a compound of formula (II d) to a compound of formula (II c) and then slowly adding a sub-stoichiometric amount of a base in relation to the compound of formula (II d).

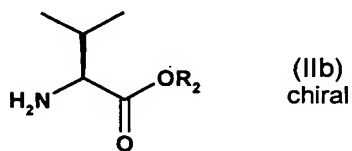
Claim 6 (original): A process for the manufacture of a compound of formula



wherein R_1 represents hydrogen or a tetrazole protecting group and R_2 represents hydrogen or a carboxy protecting group,
comprising reacting a compound of formula (II a)

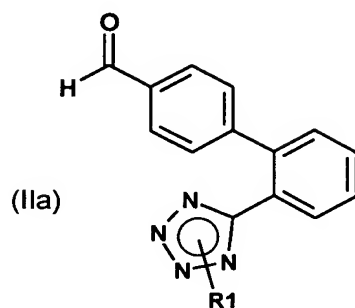


or a salt thereof, wherein R_1 is hydrogen or a tetrazole protecting group, with a compound of formula

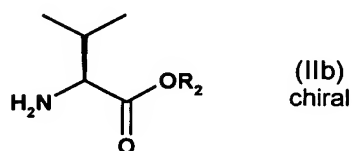


or a salt thereof, wherein R_2 represents hydrogen or a carboxy protecting group, under the conditions of a reductive amination.

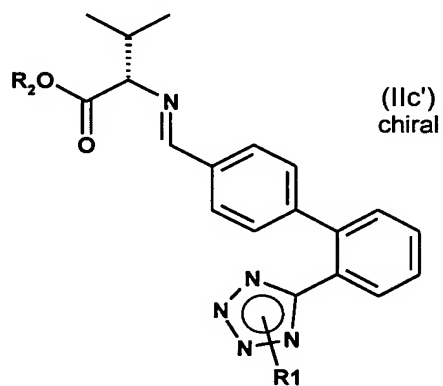
Claim 7 (original): A process according to claim 6, comprising reacting a compound of formula (II a)



or a salt thereof, wherein R_1 is hydrogen or a tetrazole protecting group, with a compound of formula

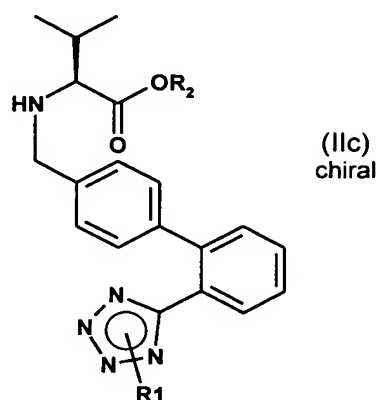


or a salt thereof, wherein R_2 represents hydrogen or a carboxy protecting group, while eliminating water, and reducing a resulting compound of formula (II c')



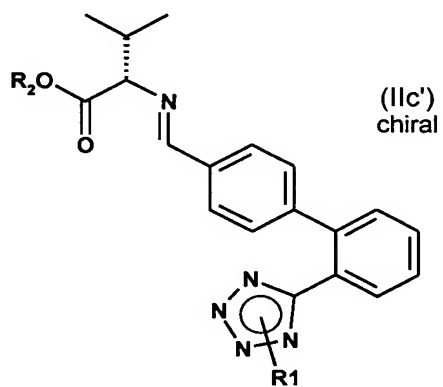
in the presence of a reducing agent.

Claim 8 (original): A compound of formula



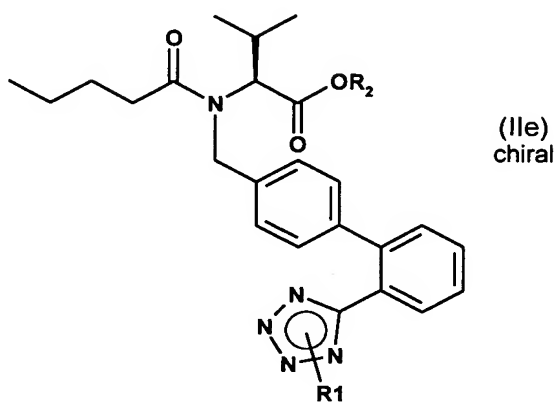
wherein R_1 is hydrogen or a tetrazole protecting group and R_2 is hydrogen or a carboxy protecting group, excluding a compound of formula (II c) wherein R_1 is ethyl and R_2 is trityl.

Claim 9 (original): A compound of formula



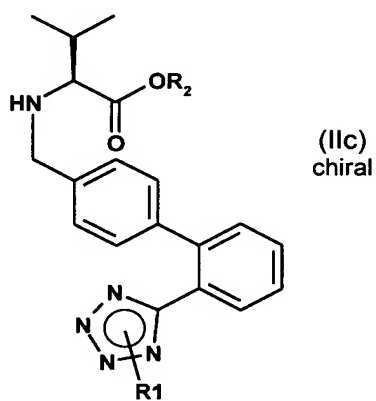
wherein R_1 is hydrogen or a tetrazole protecting group and R_2 is hydrogen or a carboxy protecting group.

Claim 10 (original): A process for the manufacture of a compound of formula

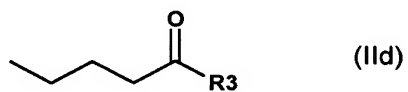


wherein R_1 represents hydrogen or a tetrazole protecting group and R_2 represents hydrogen or a carboxy protecting group,

comprising acylating a resulting compound of formula (II c)



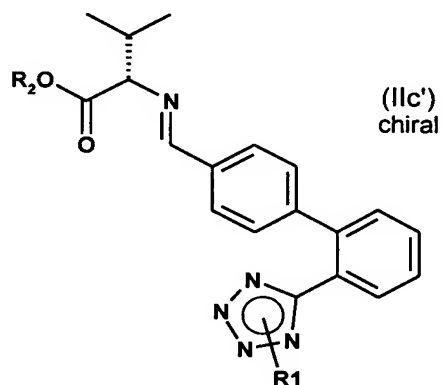
or a salt thereof with a compound of formula (II d)



wherein R_3 is an activating group.

Claim 11 (new): The process according to claim 2, wherein the reductive amination is carried out in the presence of a reducing agent such as a borohydride, which may also be in complexed form, or hydrogen or a hydrogen donor both in the presence of a hydrogenation catalyst.

Claim 12 (new): The process according to claim 2, wherein step (a) is carried out by first forming an imine of formula



by condensing compounds of formulae (II a) and (II b) and by removing water and then followed by reducing a compound of formula (IIc') in the presence of a reducing agent.

Claim 13 (new): The process according to claim 2, wherein step (b) is carried out by first adding a compound of formula (II d) to a compound of formula (II c) and then slowly adding a sub-stoichiometric amount of a base in relation to the compound of formula (II d).